SOLDIERS of the NAPOLEONIC WARS

By BRYAN FOSTEN

British Cavalry At Waterloo June 1815

(8) The Union Brigade

Officer of the 2nd Royal North British Dragoons (Scots Greys), in full dress.

55p

$2·00 (USA & Canada)

Almark Publications

The Capture of a French Eagle by the Royal Dragoons at Waterloo.

Part 8: The Second (Union) Cavalry Brigade at Waterloo, 1815

ORGANISATION AND COMPOSITION

During the Waterloo Campaign the cavalry of the Anglo-Allied Army was commanded by Lt-General the Earl of Uxbridge and consisted of seven Brigades. These Brigades included the British and those of the Kings German Legion; a Hanoverian Brigade, five squadrons of Brunswick cavalry and three Brigades of Dutch-Belgians.

Before the commencement of hostilities the British were stationed at Grammont, in and around Nivove and in villages bordering the River Dender.

BRITISH STAFF

Commanding Officer

Lt-General the Earl of Uxbridge, G.C.B.

Aides-de-Camp

Major W. Thornhill: 7th Hussars.
Captain H. Seymour: 60th Foot.

Extra Aides-de-Camp

Captain T. Wildman: 7th Hussars.
Captain J. Fraser: 7th Hussars.

The Seven British Brigades were formed as follows:

1st (Household) Brigade: Major-General Lord Edward Somerset.

1st and 2nd Life Guards.
Royal Horse Guards (Blues).
1st (Kings Own) Dragoon Guards. (Union)

2nd Brigade: Major-General Sir William Ponsonby.

1st Dragoons (The Royals).
2nd Dragoons (The Scots Greys).
6th Dragoons (The Inniskillings).

3rd Brigade: Major-General Sir William Dörnberg.

23rd Light Dragoons.
1st Light Dragoons Kings German Legion.
2nd Light Dragoons Kings German Legion.

4th Brigade: Major-General Sir John Vandeleur.

11th Light Dragoons.
12th Light Dragoons.
16th Light Dragoons.

5th Brigade: Major-General Sir C. Grant.

7th Hussars.
15th Hussars.
2nd Hussars Kings German Legion.
13th Light Dragoons (formerly 7th Brigade).

6th Brigade: Major-General Sir H. Vivian.

10th Hussars.
18th Hussars.
1st Hussars Kings German Legion.

7th Brigade: Colonel Sir Frederick von Arenschildt.

13th Light Dragoons (transferred to 5th Brigade during action on 16th-18th June).
3rd Hussars Kings German Legion.

2ND BRITISH CAVALRY BRIGADE

Commanding Officer
Major-General Hon. Sir William Ponsonby, K.C.B.

Aides-de-Camp

Lieutenant B. Christie: 5th Dragoon Guards.

Extra Aide-de-Camp

Major D. Evans: 5th West India Regiment.

Major of Brigade

Major Reignolds: 2nd Dragoons (Scots Greys).

The 2nd British Cavalry Brigade was popularly known as the 'Union' because the three component regiments were English, Scottish and Irish. These were:

(i) **The 1st or Royal Dragoons known as the 'Royals'**
(ii) **The 2nd Dragoons, the Royal North British Dragoons known as the 'Scots Greys'**
(iii) **The 6th Dragoons, the 'Inniskilling' Dragoons**

Above left: *Trooper of the Royals in full dress.* Above: *Corporal of the Scots Greys in full marching order.* Left: *Trooper of the Inniskillings in heavy marching order. The full equipment is shown; oat bags, hay net, waterdeck tent-peg mallet, canteen on valise, full haversack and water-bottle.*

The 'Royals' were raised in 1661 by the Earl of Peterborough and were sent to garrison the port of Tangiers during the British occupation from 1662 to 1684. The regiment fought with great distinction against the Moors and at that time were known as the 'Tangier Horse'. About 1689 they were re-titled 'The Kings Own Royal Regiment of Dragoons' and about 1690 'The Royal Dragoons'. Battle-honours included Dettingen and the Peninsular.

The 'Scots Greys' traces its origins to about 1678. In 1681 they were known as the 'Royal Scots Dragoons' and also the 'Grey Dragoons'. This latter title was probably from the colour of their uniform clothing rather than the colour of the horses. This famous regiment served Marlborough with distinction gaining notable victories at Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet, etc. From the beginning of the 18th century the regiment retained the distinction of wearing grenadier caps.

Originally the cap was the cloth, mitre-shaped cap as worn by the grenadiers of the infantry but towards the end of the century a black bearskin was introduced and continued to be worn, with variations, up to and after Waterloo.

The 'Inniskillings' were raised in 1689 for the protection and defence of the town of Enniskillen in Ireland. Whilst on duty in Scotland in the early years of the 18th century they were mounted on black horses and were given the nickname of the 'Black Dragoons'. The regiment served with great distinction at Dettingen, Fontenoy, Roucoux, etc and in 1751 became the 6th or Inniskilling Dragoons.

Officer of the Royals in walking out dress.

COLONELS OF THE REGIMENT

(i) **1st or Royal Dragoons**
General Thomas Garth.

(ii) **2nd or Royal North British Dragoons**
General The Marquis of Lothian.

(iii) **6th or Inniskilling Dragoons**
General George Earl of Pembroke.

OFFICERS

1st or Royal Dragoons

Lt-Colonel: A. B. Clifton
Major, acting: Lt-Colonel P. Dorville

Captains:	C. E. Radcliffe	Lieutenants:	C. Bridges
	A. Kennedy-Clark		C. Oommaney
	P. Phipps		C. Blois
	R. Heathcote		S. Goodenough
	E. C. Windsor		R. Magniac
	C. L. Methuen	Cornets:	W. Sturges
	C. Foster		J. C. Sykes
Lieutenants:	H. R. Carden	Adjutant:	T. Shipley
	G. Gunning	Quartermaster:	W. Waddel
	T. R. Keily	Surgeon:	G. Steed
	S. Trafford	Asst. Surgeon:	T. Prosser
	S. Windawe		

ORGANISATION

The regiment had three squadrons each of two troops. The squadrons were commanded by Capt A. Kennedy-Clark, Lt-Col Dorville and Major, later Lt-Col, Radcliffe (also spelt Radclyffe).

Each troop consisted of a captain, two lieutenants, or a lieutenant and a cornet, a troop sergeant-major, three sergeants, four corporals, a trumpeter, a farrier and between 60–65 dragoons.

The Adjutant, Quartermaster and the Surgeon and his Assistant formed part of the staff.

2nd Dragoons (The Scots Greys)

Colonel: J. J. Hamilton
Lt-Col: J. B. Clarke
Lt-Col: T. P. Hankin
Major: E. Cheney

Captains:	J. Poole	Lieutenants:	A. Hamilton
	R. Vernon		T. Trotter (also spelt Trutter)
	T. Reignolds (Brigade Major)		J. Gape
	C. L. Barnard		C. Wyndham

Officer of the Scots Greys: dismounted parade in overalls. This picture shows clearly the shirt frill and the method of tying the sash.

Lieutenants: E. Payne
J. Mills
F. Stupart
G. H. Falconer
J. Weymss
J. Carruthers
J. R. T. Graham
N. McMillan
Cornets: E. Westby
F. C. Kinchant
L. Shuldam
W. Crawford
Paymaster: W. Dawson
Quartermaster: Mr J. Lennox
Surgeon: R. Dunn (also spelt Daun)
Asst. Surgeon: J. Alexander
Veterinary Surgeon: J. Trigg

ORGANISATION

The regiment had three squadrons each of two troops. The first field commander was Hamilton, then Hankin followed by Cheney. When Cheney took command the three squadrons were commanded by Captains Poole, Vernon and Barnard. The composition of the troops was similar to the 1st Dragoons. Siborne gives an overall loss of 201 out of the original total strength of 391 officers and men.

The Paymaster, Quartermaster, Surgeon and his Assistant and the Veterinary Surgeon comprised the staff of the regiment, which also included the Regimental Sergeant-Major.

Officer of the Inniskillings wearing the pelisse.

6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons

Lt-Col F. S. Muter
Majors: F. S. Miller (later Lt-Col)
H. Madox
Captains: W. F. Browne
W. F. Hadden
Hon S. Douglass (also spelt Douglas)
E. Holbech
T. Mackay
Lieutenants: A. Hassard
F. Johnson (also spelt Johnston)
R. Down
B. Barry
P. Ruffo
M. Dames
Lieutenants: T. Biddulph
A. S. Willett
J. Linton
H. W. Petre
Cornet: J. D. Allingham
Adjutant: M. M. McCluskey
Regimental Quartermaster: J. Kerr
Surgeon: J. Bolton
Asst. Surgeons: W. H. Rickatts
W. Campbell
Veterinary Surgeon: R. Vincett
Paymaster: W. Armstrong

ORGANISATION

The regiment had three squadrons, each of two troops, one of which was commanded by Lt-Col Miller. It is likely that the other two were commanded by Madox and Browne. One squadron was detailed to take the large body of prisoners to the rear about two o'clock.

The staff of the regiment included the Adjutant, Regimental Quartermaster, the Surgeon and his two Assistants, the Paymaster and the Veterinary Surgeon. The Regimental Sergeant-Major was also a member of the Regimental Staff. Siborne gives the strength of the regiment as 396 officers and men and gives the total casualties as 217.

Officer of the Scots Greys in undress in quarters.

BRIEF RESUMÉ OF THE PART TAKEN BY THE UNION BRIGADE ON 17TH–18TH JUNE 1815

16TH JUNE – 17TH JUNE

The Union Brigade arrived too late to take part in the action at Quatre Bras and bivouacked on the perimeter of the field. Upon discovering that the Allies had retired from the field of Quatre Bras, Marshal Ney brought forward his own cavalry in advance of his Army Corps attempting to both harry the rear of Wellington's forces and move around onto their flanks.

The extreme rearguard of the Allied Army was drawn from the Hussars and Light Dragoons of Vivian's and Vandeleur's Brigades.

The Duke of Wellington and the Earl of Uxbridge had been watching the dispositions of the French cavalry through spy-glasses and when satisfied that they were not favourably situated to accomplish any drastic attack on their rear decided to begin to retire their own cavalry force.

Somerset's 'Household' Brigade and Ponsonby's Union Brigade were to comprise the rear of the centre column which was to use the Brussels high road. Major-General Sir John Vandeleur and the Light Cavalry were to retreat via a bridge over the River Genappe at the village of Thuy. The Hussars, especially the 18th, became involved with superior bodies of French cavalry and came in at a trot which provoked Wellington into opening up with Artillery in an effort to stem their advance. This caused the French to bring forward their own guns and they began to throw shot, either into, or over the Hussars. In an effort to slow down the increasing nuisance from the French lancers Vivian threw forward the 18th Hussars in a charge to clear them as soon as they came within dangerous distance.

This was the moment when the rain started and the dreadful electric storm which preceded the Battle of Waterloo commenced. In a few minutes the whole situation was changed for the ground became so saturated that it was impossible to move cavalry with any rapidity.

Vivian replaced the 18th Hussars with the 1st Hussars of the King's German Legion which was a strong regiment better able to stand the French off.

At this time the Union Brigade were on high ground a little in the rear of the town of Genappe and disposed on either side of the road.

Although large bodies of French lancers and chasseurs were now seen either transversing the rear, or approaching in tight formation along the main road, they did not approach close enough to worry the Brigade on this side of the Genappe.

It was while the British cavalry were attempting to cross the River Genappe over the bridge on the north side of the town that the first serious engagement occurred. Some confusion had occurred in Vandeleur's Brigade crossing the Bridge and the delay had enabled large bodies of the enemy to catch up and they began to force their way between bodies of the Hussars. Some of the cavalry had managed to cross the river and had been dismounted along the further bank to cover the crossing by their comrades.

A large body of French cavalry comprising lancers, chasseurs and dragoons had now entered the town of Genappe via the Charleroi Road and the Earl of Uxbridge decided that the time was ripe to take advantage of the narrow front given to the French by the width of the only decent road through the town.

He therefore halted the Household Brigade and the Union Brigade and drew them up into a column of half squadrons to the right and left of the main road, on the rising ground about six hundred yards outside the town.

The 7th Hussars were at this time still formed at some little distance in the rear of the town with the 23rd Light Dragoons in their support about midway between it and the Heavy Brigades.

Major Hodge's squadron of the 7th Hussars was posted between the main body of the regiment and the outskirts of the town.

Presently loud shouts announced that the French cavalry had entered the further side of the town and in a few minutes their leading men began to emerge galloping out of the town at Major Hodge's troops. The leading French were lancers, all young troops and mounted on very small horses. They were seen to be quite drunk.

Meantime the main body of the French had been packing into the main street, the leading files had halted on seeing the silent and motionless British awaiting them. For about fifteen minutes the cavalry filed in from the other side of Genappe packing hundreds of horses into the single main road while the leading squadrons remained still. Because of a crank in the road the rear squadrons could not know that the whole mass had halted in front. At this point it was impossible for the French to manoeuvre and they could not go about.

The Earl of Uxbridge therefore ordered the 7th Hussars to charge. The French awaited them with lowered lances and, because of their close, compact formation, flanked by buildings and backed up by a solid mass of more horsemen, they proved impregnable to the lightweight horsemen of the Hussar Regiment. Nevertheless the Hussars kept at it for some time cutting and slashing over the lances at the narrow front but quite unable to make any impression on the solidarity of their resistance. Both Major Hodges and the commanding officer of the French Lancers were killed in this contest.

The French artillery opened up, lobbing shells over Genappe causing some casualties in the 7th Hussars, throwing them into some confusion, whereupon the French Lancers began to emerge from the town and drove the 7th back. The Hussars rallied and the lancers retreated and this see-saw battle went on for some time until, Lord Uxbridge decided to draw the Hussars off. They retreated through the 23rd Light Dragoons, turned off into a field and re-formed.

By this time the French had realised their unfortunate position in the confines of the town and had begun to clear their rear so as to give themselves more freedom of movement.

Thinking that they had defeated the British cavalry because of the retirement of the 7th Hussars the French began to work themselves up into a fever of excitement shouting their war cries such as 'Vive L'Impereur' and 'En avant' and becoming impatient to advance.

The Earl of Uxbridge chose this moment to order the Life Guards to charge. The tight formation of large men on their huge black horses swept forward at a terrific pace and literally crashed into the French cavalry. Led by Sir John Elley the Deputy Adjutant General they hacked and cut their way with such power that the French were utterly unable to withstand the pressure and retired, followed by the Life Guards who swept on through the main road of Genappe killing everything that moved.

The enemy now tried another tack and began to endeavour to outflank the rearguard but the Union Brigade kept them entirely at bay, manoeuvring by retiring by alternate squadrons covered by their own skirmishes and completely stopping the French in this bid. Eventually the ground became so soft as to be impassable and the Earl of Uxbridge decided that the Brigade could be safely withdrawn from the position and they were moved back onto the high road. Shortly after they were permitted to move back towards Waterloo leaving the Household Brigade with the Light Cavalry to cover the remainder of the retreat.

By now it was twilight, the sky was still filled with lowering rain clouds and before long further heavy rain began to fall. The Brigade, along with the remainder of the Allied troops, had to

Trooper of the Royals in foul weather kit – an interesting example of the dragoon helmet cover.

seek what shelter they could in hut, hedge and under the trees. Saddles were removed and covered by the waterdecks, the men swathed in their heavy red cloaks bowed their heads against the torrent of rain and awaited the dawn.

The Allies had bivouacked in some confusion over the whole of the plateau. Roused at dawn they began to prepare for the days conflict, lighting fires, preparing their meagre breakfast, feeding the horses and attempting to dry and clean up their uniforms and to clean and dry their weapons. A feature of this early morning scene was the scattered discharging of muskets, either to unload them from the previous day or to help dry the pieces for the coming conflict.

Towards six o'clock the trumpets sounded and the cavalry began to mount, form up and move across the ground to their allotted positions where they were lead out, inspected and taken by the junior members of the Staff to their posts.

According to G. Jones in his work 'Waterloo' the 2nd Cavalry Brigade put 1,183 sabres in the field at this time, but some historians put the figure considerably lower.

The cavalry formed almost entirely the second line of the Allied position. They were posted on the reverse side of the ridge and in the hollow in the ground at the rear and were screened from the enemy's observations. While in reserve they were dismounted.

The 2nd Brigade was formed in regiments in close columns of squadrons at deploying intervals. Their station was on the left of the main Charleroi to Brussels Road and in the rear of Lt-General Sir John Picton's Fifth Reserve Division. This Division comprised three Brigades:

1 the 8th (Sir James Kempt)
2 the 9th (Sir Dennis Pack)
3 the 5th Hanoverian (Colonel von Vincke)

The regiments involved were the 1st battalions of the 28th, 32nd, 79th, 95th, 42nd, and 92nd Foot, the 2nd battalions of the 44th and the 3rd battalion of the 1st Regiment of British Foot.

The Hanoverian Regiments were the 'Landwehr' Battalions Hameln, Gifshorn, Hildesheim and Peine. The division was supported by two Foot Artillery Batteries posted in its front – Major Roger's and Captain Brann's Hanoverian Battery under the command of Major Heisse.

The Household Brigade, commanded by Major-General Lord Edward Somerset, KCB, and comprising the 1st and 2nd Regiments of Life Guards and the Royal Horse Guards (Blues) together with the 1st or King's Own Dragoon Guards were posted near the Brussels–Charleroi Road about 250 yards in front of the farm of 'Mont St. Jean'.

About two o'clock the Emperor ordered forward Count D'Erlon's Division. The Division comprised four Brigades under Lt-Generals Allix, Donzelot, Marcognet and Durutte and included such famous regiments as:

13th Light Infantry.
8th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 25th, 28th, 29th, 45th, 46th, 51st, 54th, 55th, 85th, 95th and the 105th Regiments of the Line.

A total of 33 battalions producing approximately 16,200 bayonets.

To open the proceedings a tremendous barrage of eighty pieces began to pour over a storm of fire. This was immediately answered by a similar cannonade from the British Artillery and after half an hour the main French battery ceased to allow D'Erlon to move forward. The four divisions were marched in echelon, by the left, with intervals of 400 yards between each. Allix formed the first, Donzelot the second, Marcognet the third and Durutte, who had misgivings about this formation, remained in reserve and moved to the right towards Papelotte. The columns now presented three almost solid phalanxes with a front of 160 to 200 files, and with a depth of 24 men (after Mauduit). According to the memoirs of Brigadier Schmitz of Donzelot's Division they were wedged so close together as to have barely enough room between the battalions for the officers to squeeze in.

Irritated at not having been engaged on the previous day the soldiers were filled with enthusiasm to get at the enemy. They marched at a brisk pace down into the valley. As they did the French batteries opened up again with longer range this time, shells crossing over their heads with great rushing sounds.

The battalion drums began to rattle out the 'pas de charge' and the battalion commanders ordered forward the usual swarms of 'tirailleurs' and 'voltigeurs' who extended fan-wise in front of the column and began sniping at the British through the tall rye. The head of Allix's Brigade wheeled slightly left, bore down on the Farm of 'La Haye Sainte' and opened fire on the defenders. The remainder continued its inexorable march towards the Allied ridge. Allix's men quickly began to drive in the German companies out of the Orchard by the Farm but the French were unable at this stage to dislodge the defenders from the buildings from which they sustained a murderous fire.

East of the road the other columns had resolutely climbed the slope towards the Allied position, being constantly assailed by the accurate fire from the skirmishers of the 95th and Bylandt's Brigade drawn up before the Ohain Road. The pace quickened in spite of the slippery ground and the dense tall growth of rye which impeded their march. The left echelon dislodged the 95th from their sandpit and they retreated onto the ridge sustaining fire from the hedgerows. The second echelon (Donzelot) engaged Bylandt's right and the third echelon (Marcognet) advanced towards the left of this Brigade. On the far right Durutte, who had elected to advance alone, attacked the Farm of Papelotte and had driven in the light companies of Nassau infantry and was threatening Best's Hanoverians.

At this point the attack was seen by the French to be going as planned and there was much optimism among the Emperor's Staff.

However, the tight formation of D'Erlon's massive columns was now beginning to hinder their march and was resulting in excessive casualties. The Donzelot Division advanced close to the road and here he attempted to deploy his force.

In climbing the difficult slope the battalions had increased their intervals and had lost much cohesion. Now they were a

Officer of the Royals in service dress.

mere mass of men, their officers and sergeants attempting to push them into at least a semblance of order. In some cases the flats of swords and musket butts were being used to beat the men into a more mavoeuvrable formation. But in the noise and heat of the moment each order seemed to add more to their confusion.

Meantime, Kempt's and Pack's Brigades had been taken back in good order about 150 yards from the road. The men were told to lie down to evade the shells still flying overhead, but seeing that Bylandt's men had been momentarily routed Picton shouted the order to stand again and Kempt's brigade was brought forward to the road. They drove in the French 'voltigeurs' and Donzelot's men, in the very act of deploying, were caught by the sharp and sustained volleys from the British. The British pushed forward with the bayonet and Kempt later reported to Wellington that they were fighting so close, that the wads from the firelocks were adhering to the uniforms of their enemies. It was during this action that Picton fell shot dead.

The Marcognet, third echelon, had by now reached the same height as Donzalet and was just passing through the hedge in front of Pack's Brigade. The Scots were deployed in line, four deep, and opened fire on the head of the French column. The French could not reply except from the front ranks and so fired one ragged volley and then came on with the bayonet. The first opposing ranks were now involved in a desperate hand-to-hand struggle.

At this moment the issue seems to have great doubt. The British infantry appeared to waver.

Meantime a mass of Milhaud's cuirassier regiments under General Travers had also reached the main road and the Earl of Uxbridge ordered Somerset to charge them with his Household Brigade. The situation was certainly critical, the infantry were still in close combat, the action swaying back and forth on the very line of the Allied position.

The four regiments of Somerset's Household Brigade swept forward in line. They galloped forward and the two formations of élite cavalry met head on. Unfortunately for the French, between them and the British was the Ohaim Road, which at this point ran between banks which levelled out further on. The cuirassiers charge was seriously affected by this, the impetus of their charge was partially destroyed at the moment when the Life Guards hit them at full speed. The cuirassiers turned in an attempt to escape the British swords and tried to file up the hollow road to regain flat ground. They rallied but were recharged by the Household Brigade, suffered severely and were shattered and driven back down into the valley.

Meantime Ponsonby had seen the Household Brigades success against Traver's cuirassiers and led his Brigade up the reverse slope to the hedgerows along the ridge. To do this the brigade wheeled by their left and took the ground to the right by a flank march of threes. He halted the brigade at this point and rode forward with his ADC and Colonel Muter of the 6th Dragoons. As a result of his observation of the position he ordered Muter to place himself at the front of the centre squadron of his regiment and to await his signal to advance. The signal was to be the raising of the General's cocked hat.

Major de Lacy Evans the extra ADC to Sir William had posted himself on the right of the front rank of the Inniskillings and Royals and waited for the moment. As the French crossed the road, expended and still disorganised by their march they were giving little fire except from their front ranks. At this moment the Inniskillings and the Royals were in line slightly in advance of the Greys who were still in a hollow on the reverse side of the slope and suffering from French artillery. The sustained volley firing from the Highlanders had stopped the French at this moment.

The enemy's fire becoming too warm and having just lost Colonel Hankin who fell from his horse at this time the Greys were moved up and began to take post to the left. They were therefore slightly to the rear of the other two regiments at this moment. As they moved de Lacy Evans raised his cocked hat as the signal to advance.

The 92nd Regiment, the 79th and 42nd much reduced in strength from their efforts at Quatre Bras, were still exchanging

Corporal of the Inniskillings in marching order.

fire with the head of the French columns together with the other regiments of Kempt's and Pack's Brigades. As the British cavalry moved up behind them they wheeled aside in companies, sub-divisions and sections to let the horsemen through.

As the Greys passed through the line of the 92nd their enthusiasm at seeing their Scots comrades grew too strong and with shouts and cheers the two regiments moved forward together, some of the Gordon's clinging to the stirrup leathers of the Greys. At this moment the cavalry were not galloping but probably only cantering forward. Nevertheless, because of the advantage of the rising ground the French were forced back and yielded to the furious onslaught of both infantry and cavalry. The British forced the confused French back and against the weight of horses and infantry the great mass of men became more and more disorganised, fighting desperately to withstand the slashing swords of the dragoons and the stabbing bayonets of the infantry.

Within the struggling mass of the 45th Regiment of the Line an officer was attempting to make off with their Eagle. Sgt Charles Ewart of the Greys took this Eagle from the enemy.

Writing to his father on the 8th July 1815 Ewart stated:

'... owing to a column of foreign troops giving way our brigade was forced to advance to support of our brave fellows, and which we certainly did in style; we charged through two of their columns, each about 5,000 men, it was in the first charge that I took the eagle from the enemy, he and I had a hard contest for it, he thrust for my groin – I parried it off and cut him through the head. After which I was attacked by one of their lancers who threw his lance at me but missed his mark by my throwing it off with my sword by my right side; then I cut him from the chin upwards which went through his teeth; next I was attacked by a

Ensign of the Scots Greys in campaign dress.

foot soldier who after firing at me charged me with his bayonet – but very soon lost the combat, for I parried it, and cut him down through the head, so that finished the contest for the eagle. After which I resumed to following my comrades eagle and all but was stopped by the General saying to me, "You brave fellow take that to the rear, you have done enough to get quit of it" which I was obliged to do but with great reluctance. I retired to a height and stood there for upwards of an hour, which gave a general view of the field but I cannot express the horrors I beheld, the bodies of my comrades were lying so thick upon the field that it was scarcely possible to pass, and horses innumerable. I took the eagle into Brussels amidst the acclamation of thousands of the spectators who saw it. . . .'

Sergeant Ewart was a huge man reputed to be 6 feet 4 inches tall and to weigh 18 stone. He was a first-class swordsman and was later granted a commission in a West India Regiment.

It should be noted that the action involving taking the eagle could not have been done at the gallop. The dragoons had only moved a few hundred yards from their original position and had been forming into line before moving against the French. The movement was probably made at a slow canter as D'Erlon's infantry were already in a man-to-man contact with the British when the attack started.

The lancer who attacked Ewart would probably have been a trooper from either the 3rd or 4th. Chevau legers lanciers of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Without pausing to re-form, the Brigade burst through the mass of D'Erlon's infantry. Fired on from their front by the British infantry and charged through by the cavalry the heavy French columns could make little resistance. The men huddled together in confusion and had no room to aim or fire their muskets. Bullets were fired in the air and bayonet thrusts made so badly they had no effect.

The Dragoons broke and wheeled through the French columns cutting the infantry down as if they were sheep. The columns were shattered, divided and scattered. The French Brigade, which had rallied by the sandpit were thrown into disorder and were also swept away by the heavy swords and huge horses of the British dragoons.

At *La Haye Sainte* the attack was abandoned and Vandeleur's Light Cavalry aided by the Dutch cavalry forced that Brigade also to fall back in disorder.

The attack by the 'Royals' was directed on the column which had reached the Wavre Road and had turned along the ridge. The French thought at first that they were unopposed but seeing the rapid approach by the Dragoons they opened fire causing some casualties. The Royals reached them as they were trying to circumvent the quickthorn hedge which abounded along this section of the allied position. The men at the rear of this mass of French troops unaware of what was happening to the front of their column continued to press forward jamming the whole column into an unmanageable confused mass. Gradually as the rear of the column began to become aware of what had happened the column loosened up and began to roll back down the slope. As it did so the Royals struck, slashing and hacking with their long swords.

The Dragoons were causing horrible casualties along the perimeter of the solid mass of troops. Among the column was the 105th Regiment of the Line. The men of this corps had experience of being charged by British cavalry. They were the same 105th whom Wellington's Dragoons had ridden down and slaughtered after Salamanca. In their ranks were many veterans who had served in Spain and had rejoined Napoleon on his return from Elba. As the flashing sabres of the Royals burst among them the whole regiment broke up and turning began to run down the slope. Without drawing rein the Royals pressed home their charge, in a moment they were among the disorganised regiment cutting men down in hundreds.

In that 'melee' of troops was Captain Kennedy-Clark the commanding officer of the centre squadron of the Royals. Men were surrendering and throwing down their arms. In the centre of the 105th was the 'Porte-Aigle' of the Regiment with his guard. Captain Clark gave the order 'Right Shoulder forward attack the colour' and led the attack himself. His own account

Officer of the Royals in campaign dress.

of the following action was as follows:

'. . . I did not see the Eagle and Colours (there were two but only one with an eagle) until we had been probably five or six minutes engaged. It must, I should think, have been originally about the centre of the column and got uncovered in their change of direction.

'When I first saw it, it was about 40 yards to my left and a little to my front. The officer who carried it and his companions were with their backs to me and endeavouring to force their way into the crowd.

'I gave the order to my squadron and led direct on the point myself. On reaching it I ran my sword into the officer's right side a little above the hip joint. He was a little on my left side and fell that side with the Eagle across my horse's head. I tried to catch it with my left hand, but could only touch the fringe of the flag and it is probable it would have fallen to the ground had it not been prevented by the neck of Corporal Styles's horse, who came up close on my left at the instant and against which it fell. Corporal Styles was Standard Coverer, his post immediately behind me and his duty to follow wherever I led. When I first saw the Eagle I gave the order "Right shoulders forward, attack the colour" and on running the officer through the body I called out, twice together, "Secure the colour, secure the colour, it belongs to me! !", this order was addressed to some men close to me of whom Corporal Styles was one. On taking up the Eagle I endeavoured to break the Eagle from the pole with the intention of putting it into the breast of my coat, but I could not break

it. Corporal Styles said to me "Pray Sir, do not break it" on which I replied "Very Well carry it to the rear as fast as you can, it belongs to me".

'What became of the colour without the Eagle I know not but it is rather singular that last autumn I saw a dark blue silk flag with the words "105 Regiment d'Infanterie de Ligne" in gold lettering upon it in the hall at Abbotsford along with other military curiosities. . . .'

The Royals continued to slaughter the 105th and the 28th Regiments until they reached the bottom of the slope.

On their left the Inniskillings had burst through the hedge, passed through the British Infantry in similar fashion and had charged down the slope standing in their stirrups and shouting Irish war cries.

Two squadrons crashed into the French 55th Regiment and the other, left squadron, attacked the 54th Regiment of the Line. The Inniskillings literally destroyed these two regiments killing hundreds and taking many prisoners.

Lt-Col F. S. Miller of the Inniskillings records that:

'When we took up our position on the 18th. the Royals on the right, the Inniskillings on the left and the Greys in reserve and so formed we charged. I commanded the left squadron, Madox the right and Browne the centre. My squadron was composed of Holbeck's and Douglas's troops. In charging the French I was bayoneted in two places and lost my horse. In returning to the rear I met Sergeant Small who had just lost his own horse and was leading one which had belonged to a French Officer of Lancers and on that I rode, with French Lancers appointments, for the rest of the day.

'I then found out Rickatts (the Regimental Assistant Surgeon), got some sticking plaster put on my bayonet wounds and re-joined the Brigade which had then been reduced to only two squadrons, some of our men having been sent to Brussels with prisoners . . . as to Trooper Penfold taking an Eagle I only know what I had heard at the time, that he took an Eagle which was by some means dropped, or lost it, and it was brought off by a man of the Royals or Greys. . . .

'But Penn says that Trooper Penfold told him that after we charged he saw an Eagle which he rode up and seized hold of and that the person who held it would not give it up and that he dragged him by it for a considerable distance; that the pole broke about the middle and Penfold carried it off; that immediately afterwards he saw Hassard engaged by himself and went to his assistance, giving the Eagle to a young soldier of the Inniskillings whose name Penn now forgets, and that a Corporal of the Royals persuaded that young soldier to let him have it and he carried it off. . . .'

After the initial attacks on the columns of D'Erlon the Brigade lost all its regularity. Houssaye suggests that this was due in part to the fact that they were not equipped with curb-chains that day. They became excited by the rush and tumult and crossed the valley at a furious speed and attacked the opposite slope.

The officers certainly tried to prevent the dragoons intrepid action but to no avail. The dragoons galloped madly up the slope on the French side charging in among the French batteries sabring the gunners and hamstringing the horses, slashing through the harness and bridles. They then wheeled and turning sharp left they rode along the line of French guns killing the gunners and slashing the horses.

By this time a mass of Jacquinot's Lancers had come up obliquely from the left. The British Dragoons now began to retreat suffering greatly from the lancers and from superior numbers of 3rd and 4th 'Chasseurs á Cheval'.

The Greys suffered particularly being completely exhausted, their horses spent. The Lancers and Chasseurs were fresh and in superior numbers. They kept darting at the flanks of the Greys and spearing the wounded as they fell.

Sir William Ponsonby himself was intercepted by a party of the Lancers in the soft ground of a freshly ploughed field. His horse was engulfed in the mud and before he could extricate himself he was killed by a number of lance thrusts.

Because of the very serious losses sustained by the Brigade in this action they were brought back into reserve together with the Household Brigade and spent the remainder of the day in a position in front of the Farm of Mont St. Jean suffering from the continual French bombardment. For the rest of the day they took part in only small forays against infantry and cavalry.

Trumpeter of the Royals in full marching order.

They joined the general advance but bivouacked on the perimeter of the field during the night, the Prussians taking over the initiative in pursuing the French. The squadrons who returned to Brussels with the prisoners returned next day and were barracked in the village of Waterloo.

On the 20th June the Duke of Wellington issued a General Order describing how he expected his troops to behave on French soil.

'No looting, no plundering and payment to be made for everything taken by either the troops or the commissariat.' He added his thanks for the conduct of his troops on the field of battle.

On the same day the Duke consented to take command of the Saxon Army and moved the British cavalry into cantonments in villages between Strepy, Thieux and Boussoit-sur-Haine. The Duke's HQ was at Binche.

On the 21st the Anglo-Allied Army crossed the frontier entering France through Bavay and Valenciennes via Mons. By the 22nd the cavalry had reached Le Cateau and by the 24th were at Engle Fontaine and the 25th were encamped around Joncour. On the 26th the Union Brigade had reached Beauvais and Lanchy and by the 27th June had crossed the Somme at Willecourt.

ANECDOTES FROM WATERLOO

A LIEUTENANT of the 2nd Life Guards recalled that at one time during the great charges men of the Royals and Inniskillings mingled with his own men.

CAPT. KENNEDY-CLARK of the Royals told of a party of the Kings Dragoons Guards who had joined in the charge on the other side of the road, retired on the left of his squadron and rejoined the position along with it. Mistaking them for some of his own regiment he called out to them to form on him. The reply was 'We are King's Dragoon Guards, not Royals' and they passed on. (The inference here is that there was little difference between the uniform of the Royals and the KDGs and that without full dress horse furniture it was difficult to tell them apart.)

LT WYNDHAM of the Greys recalled that Brevet-Major Cheney brought only four or five officers and under thirty men out of the battle unscathed. They found men with ten and fifteen lance wounds and one had eighteen and was still alive at the time

A LIEUTENANT of the 92nd Highlanders stated that '. . . the Greys came up by doubling round their flanks and through their centre. Both regiments charged together calling out "Scotland for Ever" and the Scots Greys "walked" over the French column and in less than three minutes it was totally destroyed. Two thousand were taken prisoner and two of their eagles captured. The grass field in which the enemy was found, which was one instant before green and smooth as Phoenix Park was, in four minutes, covered with killed and wounded, knapsacks and their contents, arms and accoutrements etc literally strewed all over, so that to avoid stepping on them was quite impossible. Some of the French were lying wounded calling out "Vive L'Impereur" and others tried to fire their muskets at us.'

MAJOR CHENEY of the Greys on whom the command of that regiment devolved on the 18th June in consequence of the death of Col Hamilton and the wounds of the other senior officers had five horses killed under him yet, almost by a miracle, himself escaped without a wound.

NAPOLEON on seeing the Greys for the first time observed:

'How steadily those troops take the ground, how beautifully those cavalry form.' Later 'Regardez ces chevaux gris. Qui sont ces beaux cavaliers. Ce sont des braves troupes mais dans une demi heure je les couperai en pieces. Quelles braves troupes. Commes ils travaillent ils travaillent tres-bien, tres-bien!' and when they were cutting down the French artillery 'Qu'ils sont terribles ces chevaux gris. Il faut nous depecher, nous depecher!'

A report on the death of Sir William Ponsonby (Jones-Waterloo)

Having pushed some distance from his troops accompanied only by an *aide-de-camp* he entered an area of newly ploughed ground where the ground was excessively soft. Here his horse stuck and was utterly incapable of extricating himself.

At this instance a body of Lancers approached at full speed. Sir William saw his fate was inevitable. He took out his watch and a picture and was in the act of giving them to his aide to deliver to his wife and family when the lancers came up; they were both killed on the spot. His body was found lying beside his horse pierced by seven lance wounds but he did not die unavenged for, by the time the day was ended, the Polish lancers were almost cut to pieces.

CAPT. MERCER of the Royal Horse Artillery records in his Waterloo Journal that he saw remnants of the Greys and Inniskillings 'en route' in France. That although the Greys were still a well turned-out regiment, the Inniskillings looked disorganised and many of the men had lost belts and had lost the manes and even the crests from their leather helmets.

SERGEANT WEIR was a pay-sergeant of his troop of the Scots Greys. As such he might have excused himself from serving in the action; but on such a day as the Battle of Waterloo he disdained to avail himself of the privilege, and requested to be allowed to join the regiment in the mortal fray. In one of the charges he fell mortally wounded and was left on the field. Corporal Scott of the same regiment, who lost a leg asserts that when the field was searched for the wounded and slain of the regiment the body of Sergeant Weir was found with his name written on his forehead with his own blood. This his comrade said he was supposed to have done himself so that his body might be found and recognised, and that it might not be imagined he disappeared with the money of his troops. (From the British Soldier.)

The Greys and the 92nd

Hoigh! Hurrah! our ain folk – hurrah! and a tremendous cheer burst from the little band of Highlanders as they beheld emerging from the clouds of black powder smoke, the squadrons of their countrymen, who came trotting over the corpse-strewn field, where drums, colours, arms, cannon and cannon shot and killed and wounded men covered every foot of the ground.

The grey horses came snorting and prancing with dilated nostrils and eyes of fire, exhibiting all the pride of our superb dragoon chargers; while the long heavy swords and tall bearskin caps of the riders were seen towering over the battle clouds which rolled like a fog over the battlefield.

They formed part of the heavy brigade of the gallant Sir William Ponsonby, who, sabre in hand, led them on, with the 1st Royal English Dragoons and the 6th, who came roaring tremendously, and shouting strange things in their deep brogue of old Ireland.

From the weight of the men, the mettle of their horses and their fine equipment, a charge of British heavy cavalry is a splendid sight: I say British, for our men are the finest looking as well as the best soldiers in the world – an assertion which few can dispute when we speak of Waterloo. Those who witness the charge of Ponsonby's Brigade will never forget it. The Highlanders halted and the Dragoon's swept past on their flank towards the confused masses of the enemy. The Greys in passing our little band sent up the well-known cry of Scotland for Ever. At this moment this was indeed a cry that roused the stirring memory of a thousand years. It touched an instant chord in the heart of every Scot present, a voice from their homes – from the tongues of those they had left behind; and served to stimulate them to fresh exertions in honour of the land of granite and the eagle.

'Scotland for Ever' echoed the 92nd and waved their black plumage. The Royals, the 42nd and the Camerons took up the battle cry and tossed it on the wind and even the feeble voices of the wounded were added to the general shout. The Greys plunged into the masses of the enemy sabring them in scores and riding the others down like corn. The cries of the panic-stricken French were appalling; they were the last despairing shrieks of drowning men rather than the clamour of men at arms on a field of battle. . . . (James Grant, *The Romance of War*.)

MAJOR DE LACY EVANS was an Extra ADC to Sir William Ponsonby and wrote:

You place the Inniskillings in advance of the Royals and the Greys. I incline to think that the three regiments were nearly in line. I myself was on the right of the line and I should think that the Greys and Royals were rather more engaged than the other Regiment.

These last two Regiments took an Eagle each, and you will see that their loss of Men and Officers was much greater, especially the Greys.

The Brigade was in a hollow in order to screen them from cannon fire before the charge. As the Enemy advanced up to the crest

of the position on their side, the Heavy Brigade was also moved up on ours. Our Brigade came up to one hundred yards in rear of the little sunken road and hedge.

I communicated the Order for this movement myself. We waited there for a few minutes till the head of the Enemy's column had just crossed the sunken road – as I understood – to allow our infantry to pass round the flanks of the Squadrons, and also that the Enemy should be a little deranged in passing the road, instead of our being so, had we charged across the road.

The Enemy's Column, near which I was, on arriving at the crest of the position seemed very helpless, had very little fire to give from its front or flanks, was incapable of deploying, must have already lost many of its Officers in coming up, was fired into, close, with impunity, by stragglers of our infantry who remained behind.

As we approached, at a moderate pace, the front and the flanks began to turn their back inwards; the rear of the Columns had already begun to run away.

The Division you mention under Sir Thomas Picton (later Sir J. Kempt) was successful as you state, but the infantry in our front had been obliged to yield.

In going down the hill our brigade gained impetus and secured about 2000 prisoners which were successfully conducted to the rear by parties of the Inniskillings, as far as I can recollect.

The remainder of the Enemy fled as a flock of sheep across the valley – quite at the mercy of the Dragoons. In fact as they went on our men got out of control. The General of the Brigade, his Staff and every Officer within hearing exerted themselves to the utmost to re-form the men; but the helplessness of the Enemy offered too great a temptation to the Dragoons and our efforts were abortive. . . . I galloped back to Sir William. The Dragoons were still in the same disorder, cutting up the remnant of the dispersed infantry. We ascended the first ridge occupied by the enemy and passed several French cannon abandoned on our approach by the gunners and there were some squares of French infantry in the rear.

The French Lancers continued to advance on our left in good order. If we could have formed a hundred men we could have made a respectable retreat and saved many; but we could effect no formation and were as helpless against their attack as their infantry had been against ours.

Everyone saw what must happen. Those whose horses were best or least blown got away. Some attempted to escape back to our position by going round the left of the French lancers. All these fell into the hands of the enemy. Others went straight back – among whom myself – receiving a little fire from some of the French infantry towards the road on our left as we retired.

It was at this moment that almost the whole of the loss of the Brigade took place.

I think that at the moment of the collision between the Union Brigade and the Household Brigade and the French Columns there was a pause of everything else and I think our Artillery Officers and men were standing near and about but not close to or serving their guns.

. . . As to the person who took off his hat as a signal to advance I venture to think I was myself the individual who did so. It occurred thus; I accompanied Sir William Ponsonby to the crest to ascertain the proper time for the Brigade to come up. At the moment when he appeared he himself met with trifling interference.

The Enemy just then redoubled their cannon fire against the crest. The General was mounted on a secondary untrained horse and some round shot frightened the horse and his cloak being loose blew off. He dismounted for a moment to get his cloak restored to its place. It was in that moment that he instructed me to make the signal.

As to Colonel Gurwood's account of 1,123 sabres, I dare say it is all right on a return, but the 1,123 sabres were not on the field according to my humble recollection and belief.

I don't think the Enemy advanced more than five or ten yards on our side of the road on the crest. By the sudden appearance of and closing of our Cavalry upon them added to their previous suffering from musketry and grape they became quite paralysed and incapable of resistance except occasionally, individually a little.

Poor Sir William might perhaps have been spared to his country had he been better mounted. He rode a small bay hack. He had a handsome chestnut charger, which he meant to mount when the real business began but the Orderly Dragoon who had charge of the animal was not forthcoming or within call at the moment the General wanted his horse.

As to myself I was mounted on a powerful, nearly thoroughbred bay gelding. He received a considerable sabre wound from near the eye to the mouth but his action was not impaired by it. I however changed him for a brown mare on getting back to the position which however was shot soon after by a musket ball and I lost her. The bay soon recovered. (Siborne's *Waterloo Letters*.)

Memorandum from a Captain of the Royals

THE ROYAL DRAGOONS who had been quartered for about three weeks at Ninove and the immediate neighbourhood were aroused on the 16th June by the trumpets sounding to turn out about four o'clock. The Troops were got together as quickly as possible, and three days biscuits etc., having been issued to the men, the Regiment was immediately put into motion, in the first instance in the direction of Ath by way of Grammont, near which the Brigade, the 1st, 2nd and 6th Dragoons were united.

. . . the Royals bivouacked for the night in an open field a little in rear of the houses of Quatre Bras the horses being linked in column, saddled and bridled, the Officers and the men lying or standing by them.

My squadron was ordered to the Inn at Quatre Bras to assist in conveying as many of the wounded men to the rear as were able to bear the motion of a horse, and a considerable number were removed in this way to the rear of the position at Waterloo.

Having given up the wounded men my Squadron rejoined the regiment on its arrival on the crest of the position and the firing having ceased the Cavalry was withdrawn behind the Infantry and we bivouacked for the night without any shelter whatever; and a miserable one enough we passed.

LT-COL F. S. MILLER of the Inniskillings wrote:

You may remember when we advanced, and the men began to fall from the fire of the Artillery, we dismounted and marched up to the top of the hill on foot, and on reaching the top we mounted and it was then I perceived the enemy's close columns advancing up the hill near the hedge.

On seeing us they hesitated and were inclined to turn. A person in plain clothes standing near the hedge close up to the left of my squadron cried out, 'Now's your time', so over the hedge I went and waited for a moment or two for the men to collect and then we went into the Column in a second. From our scattered state in getting over the hedges I do not conceive we should have made any impression on our opposing columns had they not been inclined to retire and had they reached the hedge we could have done nothing to them.

So you will perceive that it was at the top of the hill that my squadron came in contact with them. They were in a square when I first saw them. I saw no skirmishers. The square fired at us very irregularly, after we got over the hedge. But they seemed to have been taken completely by surprise, and did not offer the resistance they ought to have done. And we did not stand long to be shot at!

Officer of the Scots Greys in walking out dress with Nankeen trousers.

As I was on the left of our front line I heard no word of command and only did what I saw done on my right until I got in sight of the enemy.

Penn is not now with me but keeps a public house of mine and has put up the 'Inniskilling Dragoons' for his sign which was before the 'Red Horse'. (Jones–Waterloo.)

THE REGIMENTAL HISTORY gives the following casualties for the Greys;

8 officers, 4 sergeants and 84 privates killed.

8 officers, and 89 privates wounded.

Similarly the Regimental History gives the following casualties for the Inniskillings:

1 officer, 2 sergeant-majors, 3 sergeants, 4 corporals, 1 trumpeter and 75 privates together with 164 horses killed.

6 officers, 3 sergeant-majors, 6 sergeants, 5 corporals, 2 trumpeters, 65 privates and 27 horses wounded.

THE UNIFORMS

Royal Warrant dated 17th August 1812

'Whereas it has been judged expedient to revise our Warrant dated 12 March 1812 and a Board of General officers of Cavalry assembled for the purpose of considering the subject have submitted various alterations which we are pleased to approve the Warrant above mentioned is hereby cancelled, and in lieu thereof this our Warrant shall be the sole and Standing Regulation.'

This was the order which prescribed the introduction of the new short skirted single-breasted service jackets and the helmets for the heavy cavalry.

Species of Clothing to be provided

For each Sergeant, Corporal, Trumpeter and Private belonging to Regiments of Cavalry, at the charge of their respective Colonels, approved patterns of which articles have been sealed, etc.

One Helmet, once every three years.
One Jacket once every two years.
One Waistcoat once every two years.
One pair of worsted web Breeches once every two years.
One pair of Gloves annually.

Sealed patterns of the clothing shall be sent to the Headquarters of every Corps of Cavalry, at home or abroad, in order that the new clothing may be compared therewith by the General Officers.

The scale of compensation for clothing not issued is appended to the Warrant in an Explanatory Memorandum. The helmet of the Heavy Cavalry is put at 13/6 for all grades concerned, this being compensation for two years. The waistcoats of the heavy Cavalry are more expensive for the sergeants than for the troopers (being no doubt because these items were what we know as stable jackets).

Provision of Necessaries

The articles to be kept up include:

1 pair of grey overalls, to be 'strappt' when necessary with leather at the discretion of the commanding officer
1 pair of white stable 'trowsers'
1 sash
1 foraging cap
1 pair of shoes
Various items of underclothing and for the toilet
Horsecloth and surcingle
Cloth valise, red for heavy cavalry
Cleaning articles and for grooming the horses

The Appointments

These to be furnished at the charge of the respective Colonels:

Cloak, Boots and Spurs

Saddlery: Saddle with leather-edged panel and pad in one, brass cantle. Pair of bearing flaps
Leather cloak cover
Girth with leather ends
Surcingle
Crupper with double strap
Martingale
Breastplate
Pair of stirrup leathers and irons
Pair of baggage straps
Single baggage strap
Set of cloak straps
Holster and horse shoe case
Pair of long and a pair of short holster straps
Leather flounce
Carbine bucket and strap
Carbine stay strap
Bridle complete with chain bridoon and collar, leather rein or rope covered with leather

Housings and Caps (These items not to be provided to regiments now abroad until their return home)

Accoutrements

Curved cartridge pouch for thirty rounds, with roller buckles
Carbine belt with two brass tongues, tip and slide
Pair of straps for the pouch to hang by
Carbine swivel
Sword and scabbard
Swordbelt and sabretache slings
Sabretache
Sword knot of buff leather

THE HELMET

Early in 1812 a black leather, brass-mounted, helmet was introduced to replace the old cocked hat. The first pattern helmet issued to the Dragoon Guards and Dragoon Regiments had a brass crest riveted to the black leather skull, with a woollen caterpillar type of crest of dark blue or black and red. This was the type of helmet worn by the Austro-Hungarian heavy dragoon of the period (in their case of course the crest was black and golden yellow). This pattern was not viewed with favour by the authorities and before the year was out a second pattern had been adopted. The second pattern helmet was very similar to the helmet worn by the French Dragoon. The skull was still jacked black leather and the headdress had a deep, flat, black leather visor, bound with brass plate. Around the lower half of the black leather skull were two brass plates. One encircled the front and comprised a diadem-shaped plate sweeping up in the front to join the base of the front of the brass crest. The plate was stamped with a large double 'GR' cypher with a crown above it and an ovoid cartouche below lettered with the name of the regiment. This plate was further decorated with a double band of a stamped foliar design all round.

The plate which encircled the remainder of the base of the skull part was composed of a series of fluted scales. The brass crest had fluted sides and the front stamped out with a Medusa Head. The helmet was secured under the chin by leather straps with a square buckle, the straps covered with brass scales and suspended from brass rosette bosses above the ears. Over the crest a black horsehair 'mane' was laid, the long tail hanging free and the other end pulled through a round flat wooden former bound over with the same horsehair.

The officers' helmets were of the same pattern with better detailed designs on the plates and crest and all the metal parts gilded. In some cases the officers had a gilded onion-shaped ornament through which the black horsehair was pulled, its end fluffed out like a shaving brush.

According to Hamilton-Smith the helmet had a black oilskin cover. There is some evidence that the dragoons plaited the mane. The artist Harry Payne who was usually quite careful in uniform matters drew an Inniskilling Dragoon trumpeter with a red horsehair mane but no other evidence has been traced for this peculiarity for 1815.

Cocked Hats

For Levées, Social Occasions and for some Undress Parades the Officers wore cocked hats. The ceremonial pattern hats were beaver and had gold lace Star Loops, gold tassels in the ends, black silk cockades and drooping white swan's feather ornaments in a short metal socket. The hats were worn fore-and-aft and can be seen in Dennis Dighton's water-colour of the Scots Greys dated 1816 in Her Majesty's Collection. The undress version were plain felt 'chapeaux bas'.

The dragoon helmet – officer's pattern. The detail shows the method by which some officers secured the horsetail with a braid.

Bearskin Caps

Only the 2nd Dragoons (The Scots Greys) wore this headdress. The regiment had worn the old cloth mitre grenadier cap until the 1768 Clothing Warrant introduced black bearskin caps. Even then we learn that as late as 1777 the regiment were still wearing old cloth grenadier caps and instructions had to be reissued for the officers and men to take the new fur caps into use. At this early period the plates had the 'Thistle' within the Circle of St. Andrew on the plate with the motto 'Nemo me Impune Lacessit'.

After 1777 the old cloth grenadier caps still re-appeared and were being used as watering caps until almost the end of the century.

In 1778 the bearskin is described as having a white plaited cord and a red cloth bag hanging at the rear, with a tassel end.

Early in the nineteenth century the old cocked hat, worn crossways, was still being worn for most undress duties and on the march. The black bearskins were always very carefully looked after and there are regimental orders concerned with strict control of their use.

Hamilton-Smith is the first authority to show the bearskin with a brass front plate and a front peak. The Floyd picture of

1810 gives an all-white plume, peak and a white plaited cord and tassel.

With the introduction of the new warrant in 1812 and the change of the regimental lace from white to yellow the colour of the cords was altered and by 1815 the cap was as follows: black bearskin with a red cloth patch on the rear bearing the White Horse of Hanover. The cap had brass chin scales, a black leather peak or visor and a triangular-shaped front plate bearing the Royal Arms. It also had a white feather from a socket on the left side and a yellow worsted plaited cord looped round and caught up on the right side with large hanging tassels.

The officers would almost certainly have had gilt front plates and probably had a silver Horse on the red patch. According to Dighton there was a small Star of the Order of the Thistle on the back beneath the cloth patch.

The officer's cords were double knotted gold cord with large bullion tassels. and the white plume a cut feather ornament.

It is not clear whether the NCOs and troopers had the Star of the Thistle on their caps at this period.

The Rubens sketch of a trooper of the Greys in the Library of the Royal Army Museum at Brussels as noted by Wynant Aerts shows a similar cap as does the Hamilton-Smith plate of 1813.

The rear view of the trooper in the Hamilton-Smith plate certainly does not show the Star on the back but does show the White Horse. The painting by Dighton in the Royal Collection shows the sergeant and the officer in uncovered caps but without the plumes and the troopers in tight black covers tied in front. These covers resemble the oilskin covers used by the Austrian grenadiers to cover their bulky fur caps and indeed many of the aspects of the new 1812 uniform seem to have followed the Austrian pattern – see for example the infantry 'kasket' and the infantry jackets. The covers appear to have flaps which could be folded down to cover the neck. When not worn down they were folded up and the tapes tied in the front. The important painting by James Howe executed in 1815, and entitled, 'The Scots Greys in Bivouac before the Battle of Waterloo 17th June 1815' has many interesting features which will be expanded later but in respect of the bearskin cap there are points which should be mentioned here. Two troopers are shown wearing the cover but with the plume issuing apparently from slits in the left side. This rather odd arrangement may be confirmed by the comment of Sergeant Dickson in his memoirs who states that his plume was shot off in the charge. Other figures in the background of the Howe painting have no covers on and the front plate and the cord and plume are shown. In the far right background of the Dighton painting is a tiny figure on a grey horse who appears to be wearing a bearskin with a fluffy white feather plume which curves right over the top of the cap. The detail is indistinct and may well be only highlight modelling on a horse further back, but could represent a trumpeter.

The Scots Greys bearskin. Note the details of the cord and the star of the Order of the Thistle which was worn by the officers. It is likely that the other ranks did not wear the star in 1815.

Forage Caps

At this period the caps were soft blue cloth bonnets with bands in the colour of the tunic and with fluffy red pom-poms on the top.

In the case of the Greys the red bands were decorated with a white zigzag. The present condition of the Howe painting makes this zigzag appear yellow, but examined alongside the other white detail in the picture which is yellowish in tone it seems likely that the varnish has affected the colour. Hamilton-Smith shows a flatter, blue bonnet with a white band for heavy cavalry.

An old print of British troops playing football shows officers wearing similar caps but with what looks like a thick roll of cloth or even fur around the lower edge [see British Military Uniforms from Contemporary Sources by W. Y. Carman].

JACKETS

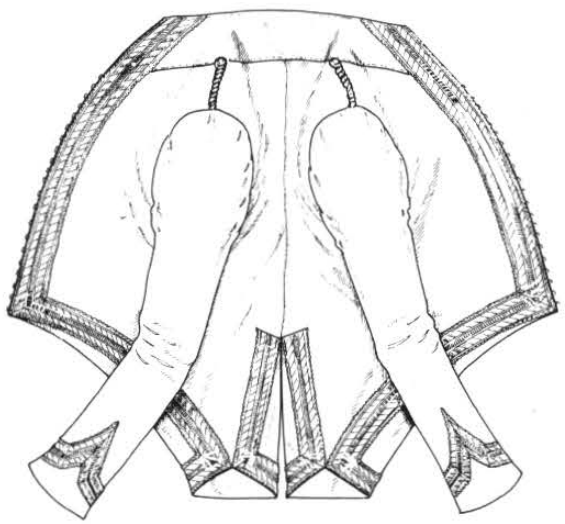
Facing Colours		*Officers' Lace and Buttons*
1st Dragoons	Dark Blue	Gold
2nd Dragoons	Dark Blue	Gold
6th Dragoons	Yellow	Yellow

The new pattern coat authorised in 1812 for other ranks was a single-breasted dull red jacket with a high standing collar, pointed cuffs and short skirts turned back to make twin tails. The collar, cuffs and turnbacks were in the facing colour. The fronts of the jackets were made to hook together with hooks and eyes, an arrangement which was not appreciated by the troops. The edges of the coat i.e., the fronts of the breasts and the collar, the edges of the cuffs, along the bottom edges of the fronts and down the turnbacks (in some cases also along the bottom of the skirts so that it showed between the turnbacks), a two-inch wide ribbed worsted lace with a central 'light' in either the facing colour or in a raised welt of the same lace and decorated with black thread. For the Royals and the Greys the 'light' was clearly the blue facing but for the Inniskillings there is a doubt. It could be that because the pale yellow of the facings would have no visual impact it was decided to make the 'light' just a decorative feature picked out with black thread. The central 'lights' were threaded horizontally with threads of yellow or white lace to give the appearance of a ladder, hence the popular name of this type of lace – 'ladder' or 'train' lace.

The shoulder-straps of the coat were decorated with shoulder-straps in the facing colour edged with a narrower version of the worsted lace.

Hamilton-Smith's plate of the Greys shows what appears to be a piece of plain worsted lace on the visible shoulder but this is probably an artist's error.

Lace was yellow for the Royals and Greys and White for the Inniskillings.



The dragoon jacket. This is the officer's pattern for the 6th Dragoons. When first introduced, the 2nd Dragoon's officer's jacket had buttons over the turnback junctions on blue and gold rosettes. Other ranks had cloth shoulder-straps in the facing colour edged with yellow or white braid according to the regiment.

Sergeants

Wore the same pattern coat as the troopers but in better quality red cloth and with the rank badges on the right upper sleeve.

Sergeant Majors

Scarlet coats with rank badges on the right sleeve. The question is did the senior NCOs have gold or silver lace? No evidence has been traced to confirm this.

Trumpeters

Sergeants' quality coats probably with chevrons of worsted lace on each sleeve between vertical lace on the seams. The chevrons were placed point down. The only evidence for this decoration is the one visible sleeve of a figure in Howe's painting. There seems no other reason why he should have shown this detail so carefully.

Officers

Finely tailored coats of scarlet facecloth with expensive cassimere or shalloon linings and much padded on the chests and shoulders. The portrait of Major Wildman clearly shows this. The very first pattern coat was rather long in front and showed below the sash, but by 1815 it was *à la mode* to wear extremely short waisted coats. The sleeves were made very tight and the cuffs styled to bell out over the hand.

The lace on the officers' coats was very rich heavily ribbed gold or silver with clearly defined central 'trains' in the facing colour. The Inniskilling officers may have had the central 'light' in a raised welt of silver picked out with black, but it was more likely to have been yellow. On each shoulder were twisted gold or silver cords fastened either on the coat near the collar with red cloth-covered buttons, or by small silver or gold regimental buttons on the actual collar itself.

NCO's Rank Distinctions
Regimental Sergeant-Major

A crown over four gold chevrons, point down, on the right upper arm.

Troop Sergeant-Major

Four gold chevrons, point down, on the right upper arm.

Sergeant

Three gold chevrons, point down, on the right upper arm.

Corporal

Two yellow or white worsted chevrons, on the right upper arm.

In some cavalry regiments the practice of wearing regimental badges over the chevrons had already started but it is not known whether either the 1st, 2nd or 6th Dragoons wore such decorations.

The chevrons should have been sewn on facing colour cloth, but in the Howe painting the Sergeant's chevrons have no backing.

Stable Jackets

In camp and on fatigue and stable duties the dragoons wore a stable jacket. According to Hamilton-Smith this was a plain, red, short-waisted round coat with no shoulder-straps or tails. The collar and cuffs, the latter pointed for dragoons, were in the regimental facing colour.

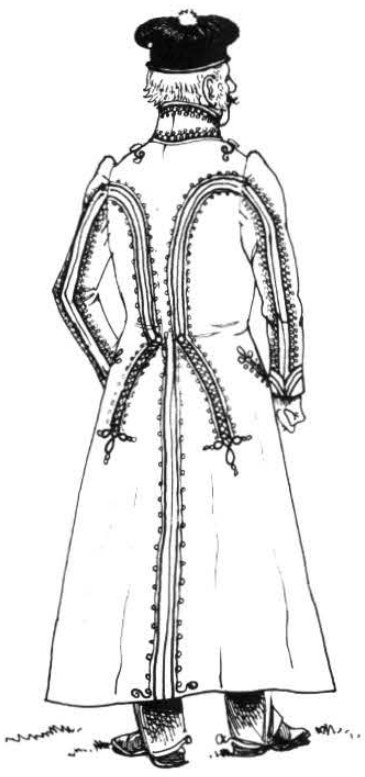
James Howe shows his Scots Greys in white jackets. Perhaps this anomaly can be best explained by the tradition of Scots Regiments having white fatigue coats. See, for example, the coloured illustration in the *Regimental History of the Cameron Highlanders* or, it may be that Howe was trying to portray an under waistcoat.

Farriers

According to the 1768 Warrant and the traditions of British Cavalry, the Farriers should have worn blue coats faced with the regimental facings for the Inniskillings, and red for the Royals and the Scots Greys.

Troop Sergeant-Major of the Royals in stable dress.

Regimental Sergeant-Major of the Inniskillings in full dress.



Officer of the Royals wearing the pelisse.

Sergeant of the Royals in walking-out dress.

The special head-dress of the Farrier was a small black cap with a Horseshoe on the forepart, silver on a black background. They had churns on the foreparts of the saddle for their tools and wore leather aprons. When the troopers drew swords the Farrier's drew their axes, the butts of the hafts on the thigh, the axe-heads facing the horses heads. No evidence has been found for 1815.

Breeches

For full dress parades the officers wore whitened buckskin breeches. The NCOs and troopers were also ordered to wear 'plush' breeches for full dress parades only.

Jacked Boots

With the full dress breeches the dragoons wore black jacked boots with swan-necked spurs buckled on across the instep of the boots with large flaps.

Overalls

For all other duties and especially on the march and on campaign dragoons wore coarse grey cloth overalls over ankle-length boots with straight steel spurs.

For officers the overalls were in good quality cloth, probably cassimere, or stockingette and had a small front 'fall'. The overalls were literally coveralls and were made tight so that they could be pulled on over the boots, underclothes and stockings with the outsides of the legs closed by flies. These flies were closed by buttons and the welt along the edge of the fly trimmed with coloured cloth. Some contemporary prints show officers with buttons on the lower parts of the leg only and worn undone, the leg of the overall belling out over the boots. The insides of the legs and the buttocks and in some cases the bottoms of each leg were reinforced with pale fawn leather.

Some of the overalls of the officers had simple gold or silver stripes without any apparent buttons down each leg.

For the Royals the overalls of the NCOs and the troopers had red welts down the fly, the Greys had either a blue welt or a blue welt on either side of the fly and the Inniskillings had a white welt according to a print in the regimental history. Some of the French artists of the period show the double welt in red for both the Royals and the Inniskillings. The overalls were suspended on wide canvas braces. These can be seen on the small figures in the background of the Howe painting.

Sashes and Girdles

Officers appear to have had two types of sash/girdle. The Dighton painting of the Greys in 1816 shows an officer in a cocked hat with white breeches and knee-length boots. He has a crimson silk net sash with tassels. In other paintings officers are wearing a rich gold lace girdle with three stripes of crimson fastened by some complicated system of buckles, straps and cord loops. A portrait of Major Wildman of the 6th Dragoon Guards shows this pattern.

NCOs and troopers wore worsted yellow girdles with two blue stripes for the Royals and Scots Greys and two red stripes for the Inniskillings.

The Cloak

NCOs and troopers wore a red camlet cloak with white linings and with a blue, either standing or standing/falling collar and probably a short double cape over the shoulders.

It is not clear what the pattern of the officers' cloak was but Dighton certainly shows such a garment rolled across the front of the mounted officers saddle in his 1816 painting.

Officers also wore a variety of undress coats in what the French fashion plates of the period describe as 'negligee'. These coats known as 'pelisses' or 'redincotes' are shown in many of the French caricatures of British officers of the period. They were long, much decorated with frogging and in cases appear to be trimmed with fur.

P. W. Reynolds had a description of such a coat. It is described as a long blue coat with a standing collar, edged with twenty-five 'French bobbin braids', all round the collar and up the sides of the back of the coat. Seventeen French bobbin braids for the hips and straps. Square cuffs framed with twenty-five French bobbin braids and the fronts of the coat decorated with braid frog loops and olivets in Hussar fashion.

Sword Belts

For full dress the officers' sword belt was in coloured leather, faced with gold or silver lace and had rectangular gilt plates with a heavily foliated GR cypher in silver in the centre within an open laurel leaf wreath with the Crown above and with a motto scroll with pennon ends beneath lettered 'Dieu Et Mon Droit'.

For undress the officers wore either white leather belts with similar plates or lions head and snake clasp fastenings, or narrow black belts with swords on slings.

The sword belts of the NCOs and troopers were thick buffalo leather with brass belt plates of the same design as the officers'.

Sabretaches

The design of the full dress sabretaches of all the regiments are not known. In principle the face of the sabretache was the colour of the facing of the regiment with a wide edging of the regimental lace and with the Crown 'GR' cypher, regimental device and any battle honour or motto below surrounded with laurel wreaths.

For undress the officers had black leather sabretaches with no devices. The sabretaches of the NCOs and troopers were plain black leather.

Pouch Belts

In full dress the officers wore pouch belts of fine coloured leather covered with gold or silver lace with a roll edging in the facing colour and with gilded or silvered slides, tips and buckles. The full dress pouches were Moroccan leather, the lids covered with the facing colour cloth and with the 'GR' cypher and Crown, laurel wreaths and regimental devices as on the sabretaches.

The troopers had white buffalo leather belts with brass buckles, tips and slides. The belt was made so as to provide a facility for the steel carbine swivel. The Sergeant-Majors, Sergeants and Trumpeters did not carry the carbine.

Gloves

On parade white gloves with gauntlet cuffs were worn. On the march and on campaign short white gloves were used by the officers and NCOs.

WEAPONS

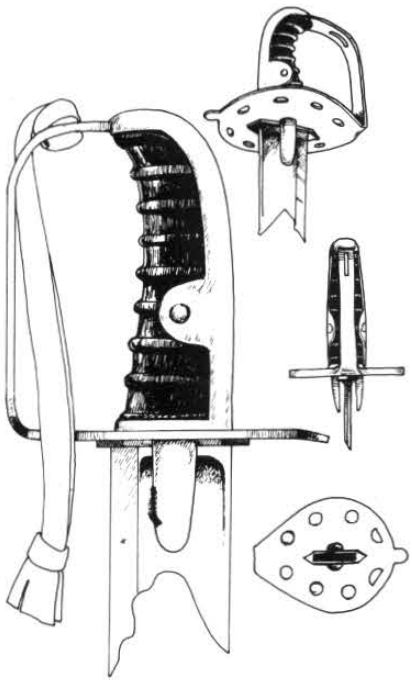
The Dragoons were armed with a sword, pistol and carbine.

The officers carried straight-bladed swords with steel-pierced guards and black grips bound with silver wire. The blades were blued and decorated with gilded ornaments. The scabbard was steel with two rings. There appear to be three different types of sword knots at this period. Portraits show white leather straps with gold knot and tassels. All gold lace and crimson silk with bullion tassels and even plain white leather similar to the troopers pattern.

The NCOs and troopers carried a very heavy broad-bladed sword with an all-steel disc-shaped guard pierced with a series of holes. The fist guard was knuckle bow-shaped and formed one part with the disc. Black grip with a steel back piece. The blade was approximately 35 inches long and was $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and with a hatchet tip. Before Waterloo the heavy cavalry ground their sword on both sides which accounts for some specimens of this sword with pointed tips. The scabbard was steel with a large steel chape and two rings. The NCOs and troopers had a buff, whitened leather sword knot.

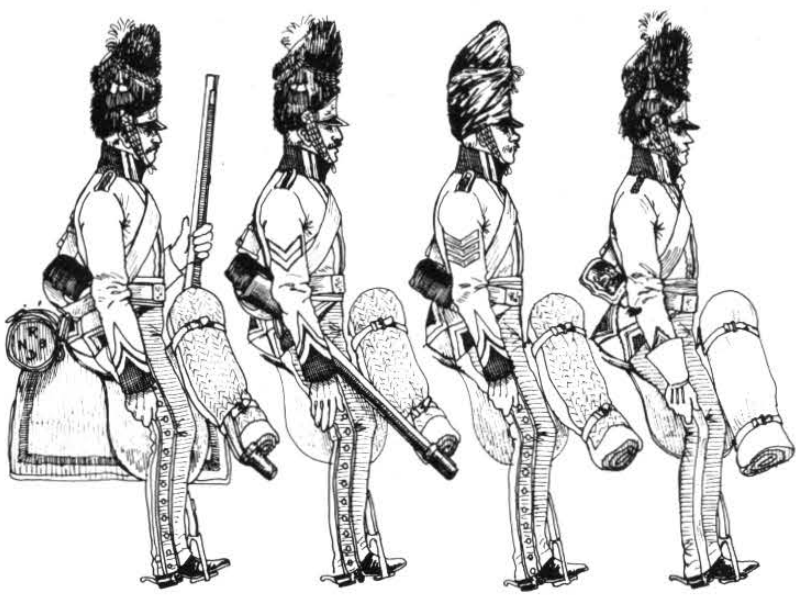
The heavy cavalry pistol had a 9-inch barrel and did not have a brass butt cap. The pistol was carried in the right holster.

The heavy cavalry carbine had a 26-inch barrel and was fitted with brass mounts. It was carried butt up with the muzzle in a bucket and suspended on a steel swivel fitted on the pouch belt attachment.



The pattern sabre carried by the other ranks.

A collection of straps and sashes. Shown here are the sword belt with sabretache; cartouche belt and pouch for troopers; cartouche and belt for officers; girdle; officers' sash. The detail of the girdle is from Howe's painting of the Grey's in bivouac in 1815.



The Scots Greys in campaign dress showing trooper, NCOs and officer.

OFFICERS KIT

A list of articles lost by Lt-Col Inglis Hamilton in June 1815 gives the following:

1 plate canteen
1 marqui
1 tent and poles
6 silver teaspoons
1 silver tea stand
1 bed and three blankets
1 set of camp kettles
6 large silver forks
6 large silver spoons
and lost in the action:
1 horse, saddle, bridle etc complete
1 pistol
1 cloak
1 valice
1 sword and belts
1 dressing gown
1 pair overalls
2 pairs of drawers
3 pairs of socks
3 silk hankerchiefs
2 velvet stocks
3 white cravats

BRIDLE

The dragoon bridle was brown leather with steel buckles. For full dress the officers may have had a second bridle of black leather with brass buckles. The bit was steel and had regimental devices on the boss ends. It is said that one reason why the charge of the Union Brigade got out of control was due to the absence of curb chains.

The saddle was also brown leather and was the modified 1796 pattern.

The stirrup leathers were similarly brown leather, the stirrups themselves being steel.

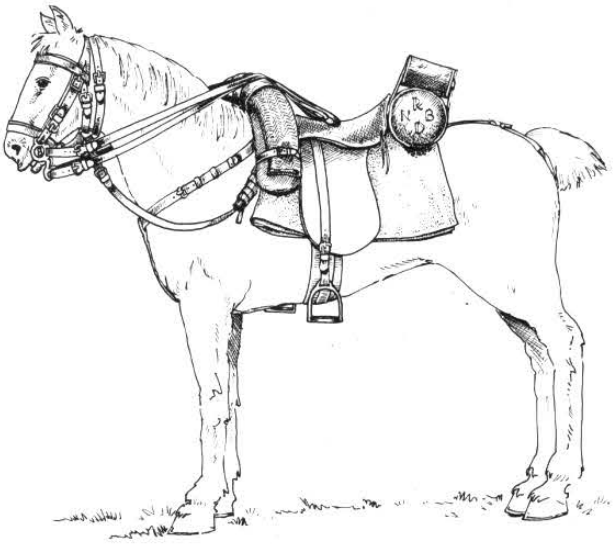
The girth shows very light coloured in prints of the period and was probably canvas.

HORSE FURNITURE

On campaign the full dress holster covers and the housings were not carried. They were usually in cloth of the facing colour with an edging of regimental lace, gold or silver for the officers and in yellow or white worsted for the other ranks. The holster caps were five-sided with the points and the bottom and the housings rectangular, fitting under the saddle. The housings and the rear corners of the housings were normally ornamented with regimental devices. Dighton's water-colour of the Kings Dragoons Guards dated 1812 shows this pattern horse furniture. In that case the devices are the Crown and GR over $^{K}G^{D}$. For the Scots Greys the devices on the holster caps are not clearly visible and the housings are quite plain. The 6th Dragoons had the Crown over scrolls bearing the regimental title, over the Castle the regimental device, all surrounded by a laurel wreath, with VI D below.

On campaign the cloaks were carried rolled across the front of the saddles and covered with canvas waterdeck. This latter item is described in *James Military Dictionary* 1810 edition as 'a painted piece of canvas which is made sufficiently large to cover the saddle and bridle, girths etc of a Dragoon's horse'. It was certainly in use in some regiments in 1802. About 1824 we find it called 'oil-deck'. The waterdeck is shown very clearly in James Howe's painting.

On the march forage nets were carried on either side slung from the rear of the saddle or, alternatively, smaller canvas food buckets. Some men carried picqueting pegs and others coils of rope to set up extended picquet lines.



General impression of saddle and harness of a dragoon regiment, based on detail in James Howe's and Dennis Dighton's paintings. Note the docked tail, canteen on valise and the waterdeck.

COLOURS

We know from the Regimental Records that the three regiments did not take the guidons on campaign. Nevertheless there seems every likelihood that these precious emblems of the regiments would have been taken out after hostilities had ceased for ceremonial purposes in and around the French capital.

The guidons of the Dragoons were 'swallow-tailed' or 'fork-shaped' and were carried on a pike 9 feet long including the spear head and the ferrule.

The regiments had two types of Guidon. The King's Guidon which was carried by the 1st Squadron and several other guidons which were carried by the other squadrons of the regiment. The 1768 warrant states Second and Third Guidons and describes them, but it is known that when the regiment had a greater strength than three squadrons the additional units had guidons also.

The King's Guidon

Was always crimson, watered silk, with the Rose and Thistle badge in the centre and the Royal Crown set over the device. The Royal Motto 'Dieu et Mon Droit' was displayed on a motto scroll beneath. In the first and fourth corners of the standard were White Horses of Hanover on green mounds set in rococo palm compartments. In the Second and Third corners the rank of the regiment, usually shown as ' ꝑ ' etc, in gold or silver according to the officers' lace. The standard was edged with a thick gold and crimson silk fringe and had long gold and crimson tassels. The size of the standard was 3 feet 5 inches from the pole to the slit of the 'swallow-tail' and 2 feet 3 inches deep on the lance.

The Second and Third Guidons, etc

Were in the facing colour of the regiment with the Badges of the Regiment in the centre or the Rank of the Regiment in gold or silver on a crimson red ground, surrounded by a wreath of Roses and Thistles all on a common stalk. Regimental Mottoes were on scrolls beneath the central badge or wreath and the White Horse on a red ground was in the First and Fourth corner and the Rose and Thistle conjoined in the Second and Third

corner. The seniority of the squadron was indicated by a number say '3', on a circular red ground underneath the centre device. When the regiment had a special badge, as did the three regiments of the Union Brigade, they carried it in the centre of the Second and Third Guidons with the Rank of the Regiment on a red ground within a wreath of Rose and Thistle in the Second and Third corners.

The Badges of the Regiments were:

1st Royal Dragoons	Crest of England (Lion on the Crown within the Garter).
2nd Dragoons	Thistle of Scotland within the circle of St. Andrew and the motto 'Nemo Me Impune Lacessit'.
6th Dragoons	The Castle of Enniskillen.

The regiments also had 'Camp Colours' and these may have been taken on the campaign but there is no mention of them on the field of battle. The colours were the facing colour of the regiment with the regiment's rank in the centre. The Dragoons had 'swallow-tailed' Camp Colours to correspond with the shape of their regimental guidons. They were 18 inches long on the part which was fixed to the pike and the pikes themselves were 7 feet 6 inches long, except for those of the Standard and Rear Guards, which were 9 feet long.

When the regiment was properly encamped for any period the arms of the regiment were stored in a special tent under guard. This tent was known as the 'Bell of Armes' and was white canvas painted in the colour of the regimental facings, on which the Badge or the rank of the regiment was displayed.

Field Marching Order

When a heavy cavalry regiment moved the men were expected to carry as much as possible on the horse. Consequently, one could expect to see canvas water buckets and nosebags suspended from rings on the saddle and filled with a variety of tools, spare shoes and nails. Two canvas feed bags were carried slung across either the withers or behind the saddle. The cloak was folded or rolled approximately 3 feet 6 inches long and strapped across the front of the saddle. Over the cloak the canvas waterdeck was strapped. Tent pegs could be strapped to the scabbard and the canteens buckled on the red valise. Selected personnel also carried either ropes of hay or hay nets with additional fodder.

Kettledrum Banners

The banners of the kettledrums were the colour of the facing of the regiment and carried the Badge of the Regiments in their centres as displayed in the second Guidon. They would no doubt have also been fringed with gold and crimson but no details of existing drum banners of the period have been traced. The regiments did not have the kettledrums on campaign.

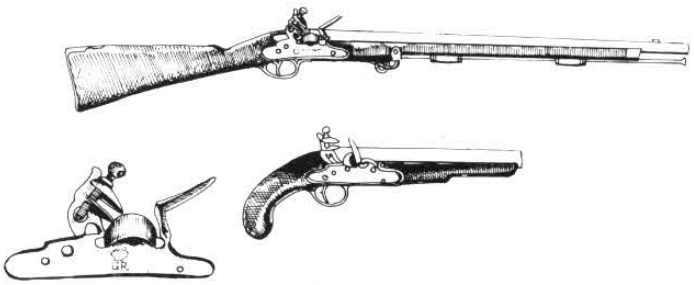
The banners were 3 feet 6 inches deep and 4 feet 8 inches long, exclusive of the fringes.

Trumpets

The cavalry trumpet of the period was brass and had crimson cords mixed with silk of the facing colour of the regiment. For ceremonial occasions the regimental trumpeters carried trumpet banners which were the facing colour of the regiments, with the King's Cypher and Crown in the centre and edged with gold fringes. The rank of the Regiment was shown below the Royal Cypher in gold or silver. The trumpet banners were 12 inches deep and 18 inches in length.

Carbines

Troopers and corporals carried the carbine. Not the lightweight 'Paget' carbine but the old 1796 weapon designed by



The Nock pattern heavy cavalry carbine and pistol. Note the steel bar and ring by which the carbine was attached to the swivel and the absence of butt plate and ramrod on the pistol.

Henry Nock. This carbine had a 2 feet 2 inch barrel and an overall length of 3 feet 5½ inches. The weapon was provided with a bayonet 1 foot 3 inches long, but it is not known for certain whether the bayonet was carried at Waterloo. The carbine weighed approximately 8 pounds and the bayonet 13 ounces. The weapon had a ·75 calibre. The carbine was carried muzzle down suspended from a steel bar and ring to a steel swivel attached to the pouch bandolier, and in a small bucket attached to the front of the saddle.

Pistols

The heavy cavalry pistol was also to Henry Nock's design. It had a 9-inch barrel, a calibre of ·75, and an overall length of 1 foot 3 inches. The weapon weighed about 2 pounds 8 ounces and was considered an ugly but efficient weapon. The rammer was carried in the holster and the pistol had no additional furniture to carry one. The pistol had a small plain trigger guard and a long sharply curved butt without any butt plate.

A Dragoon's Rations during the Waterloo Campaign

3 ozs of Wheaten Bread or Rye Bread
16 ozs of Fresh Meat
1 oz salt
3 ozs of Rice or in default of this commodity
6 ozs lentils or other dried vegetable
3 ozs butter or lard
1 litre of beer or
1 half litre of wine or
1 litre of cider
1 decilitre of brandy
1 oz of tobacco

IMPORTANT NOTE

The Howe painting and the Rubens' sketch, together with the Dighton painting of the taking of the Eagle of the 45th by Sergeant Ewart, clearly show the wearing of moustaches by the Greys. On the other hand, Brigadier Peter Young, M.C., had a contemporary water-colour of a Dragoon which indicated a clean-shaven face. The moustache may therefore be a peculiarity of the Greys. They were certainly given authority to 'continue' wearing moustaches in 1820.

Left: Trooper of the Scots Greys in marching order (after Howe).

Right: Sergeant of the 2nd Royal North British Dragoons (Scots Greys) in marching order (after Dighton)

Printed by W. S. Cowell Ltd, at the Butter Market, Ipswich
for the publishers, Almark Publishing Co. Ltd, 49 Malden Way, New Malden, Surrey, England KT3 6EA
© Almark Publishing Co. Ltd. Text and artwork © Bryan Fosten.